

# The New Direction Congress:

## Making America Safer



## Largest Veterans' Health Care Funding Increase In History

The House and Senate have passed the largest single increase in funding for veterans' health care in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration. The historic investment exceeded the President's request and adds to the \$5.2 billion for veterans added by the new Congress earlier this year to strengthen health care for more than five million veterans. Our Wounded Warriors Act sets forth a series of improvements in care as well.

The legislation is strongly supported by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, AMVETS and other groups, who have labeled the effort 'a major victory' and an 'impressive commitment' to our veterans. The measure:

- ★ Makes critical investments for our wounded troops coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, improving conditions such as those uncovered at Walter Reed and in other Congressional oversight;
- ★ Focuses on those veterans returning with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury;
- ★ Reduces the huge backlog of veterans' claims for benefits;
- ★ Provides needed maintenance of VA health care facilities; and
- ★ Prevents the President's proposed fee increases from hitting veterans.